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SUBJECT Organization and Planning of the
 Bundesgrenzschutz (See)

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1. The present strength of the Bundesgrenzschutz (Sea), reported to number 500 men, is divided among three flotillas which use Neustadt as their home port. The first flotilla is composed of coastal and harbor patrol craft, former war fishing cutters and nine other boats, each of which is scheduled to receive a 2cm Hispano-Suiza engine. The second flotilla consists of four 29m long patrol boats with new steel construction. The type has been built in the post-war period as patrol boats for the US Navy. The new German boats, however, have a steel hull and are two meters longer than those built for the U. S. Navy. Each boat carries two 1,000 HP diesel motors and cruises at 25 nautical miles. Two boats of this type are already in service and two more now under construction at Luerksen Shipyards in Bremerhaven are to be completed this year. They mount one 20mm single-gun carriage and one 20mm triple-barreled gun. The third flotilla consists of three security boats (Sicherungsboote) which are now under construction. They are built in reference to planned S-boot construction and will mount only two 20mm triple-barreled guns and no torpedo tubes.
2. Vessels under construction, in repair, or about to be acquired for the Bundesgrenzschutzsee include the following:
 - a. Six BIMS craft presently being refitted in six different shipyards.
 - b. One former Canadian minesweeper. This ship, which will be refinished by the end of 1952, will be stationed in Cuxhaven for duty in the North Sea.

d. The former naval tanker Dievenow, which is to be purchased shortly, is to be equipped as a supply ship for the flotillas.

e. Two transport and escort vessels (Begleitfahrzeuge), purchased from [] were 50m long former British corvettes which had been lengthened about 4m and sailed until recently as [] fishing steamers. They are presently undergoing repair and refitting and are soon to be placed in service. The final completion date has not been fixed.

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All of the above vessels are to be armed only with light caliber AA guns and equipped with a Decca apparatus [redacted]

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3. After protracted negotiations in the Ministry of Interior and other interested offices, Poske succeeded in gaining permission to expand his force to 1500 men at the beginning of 1953. A total of nine flotillas are envisaged and would include:

- a. Four flotillas totalling 24 ZPK's for coastal patrol and harbor protection.

- b. Three patrol flotillas, including 2 flotillas equipped with 29m long patrol boats and 1 flotilla of ZMS's in the North Sea.

- c. Two speed boat flotillas and a line of rescue or aid boats (Hilfefahrzeugen).

According to Poske's basic plan, all flotillas are not to be committed to any one base but are to be able to change their operational areas without much prior preparation.

4. The S-Boot construction program has not been progressing according to plan for a number of reasons, one of the most important being objections from the High Commissioners who maintain that Germany is not allowed to have high speed craft. This opposition has been directed primarily against the installation of the MB 513 (Spezialschnellbootsdiesel). License contracts in several countries are also allegedly involved. Although official permission for the construction of these boats is lacking, they are already on the ways.

5. According to existing plans, several bases are to be established in the following places:

- a. Neustadt will be the main base under the command of former Kapitän zur See Knuth (fnu).

- b. Cuxhaven will be the main base under the command of Freizeite Kapitän von Flanc (fnu). Repair and development of the base is presently progressing. [redacted]

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6. Officers, petty officers and sailors for the Bundesgrenzschutzsee have been drawn for the most part from the Cuxhaven Minesweeping Division. They are reported to be superior seafaring types who present no disciplinary problem. Because volunteers for the service exceed by far the number of vacancies, no expansion difficulties are anticipated. Poske stated that there has been no evidence to date of infiltration by East German communist espionage agents. The units are small, and the personnel have known each other for years.

7. Upon the completion of the activation of the flotillas, Poske plans to extend the area of operations into the control channels up to Lüneburg (Tonne) 7, NE of Cape Arcona, on Channel (Weg) 51, then gradually advancing irregular distances up to Bornholm. This expanded activity, however, will not begin until after the vessels are armed. First the ZPK's, then the patrol vessels, and finally the S-Boats will be armed so that gradually the East will become accustomed to West German vessels on the international sea lanes of the Baltic. Support will be rendered to West German fishing vessels and others engaged in coastal commerce, simultaneously confining them to the use of controlled lanes. Eventually the flotillas will protect ships engaged in [redacted] trade.

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[redacted] At present, the Royal Navy sends a liaison officer to the Neustadt base once every two weeks where he has a cocktail and a half hour conversation with Captain Knuth before returning to his post.

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10. Poske maintains close contact with Kapitän zur See Zenker and coordinates all matters of importance in order to avoid confusion and overlapping of responsibilities. [redacted] Poske has no possibility of holding his personnel after the reestablishment of the German Navy. He believes, however, that they will be so content that the majority will remain in their present activity.

11. [redacted] the Bundesgrenzschutz (See) has surmounted the first most difficult steps which Poske accomplished with skill and perseverance. As a result he now commands a cohesive unit with clearly defined missions. Problems in the financial field, which at one time appeared insurmountable, have ceased to exist.

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